



Spring 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child's health is important to us. Students in the District of Columbia schools receive health education on a variety of topics, such as nutrition, mental and emotional health, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, disease prevention, and sexual health. The Healthy Schools Act of 2010 mandates health education in grades K-8, and high school students are required to take one semester of health for graduation. To measure student achievement in these categories, the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) includes a test in health and physical education. This standards-based test is administered to fifth grade, eighth grade, and high school students enrolled in health education during the 2012-2013 school year.

Youth in DC suffer from high rates of obesity, diabetes, asthma, sexually transmitted infections, and teen pregnancy, and the assessment covers various topics that are important to the health and wellness of our students. All students in the above mentioned grades will participate in the assessment; however, participation in the age-appropriate questions regarding sexual health is optional.

As with the sexual health portion of the health curriculum, you may choose for your student to opt out of these test questions. These questions comprise only a small portion of the overall test. If you **do not** wish for your student to participate in the sexual health portion of the assessment, please fill out the form below. **If you check the box "no" below, you must sign this form and return it to the school as soon as possible and no later than April 22, 2013.** If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call your school.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schlicker  
Deputy State Superintendent of Education

**STUDENT'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] NO, my child may not participate in the sexual health education questions.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_